



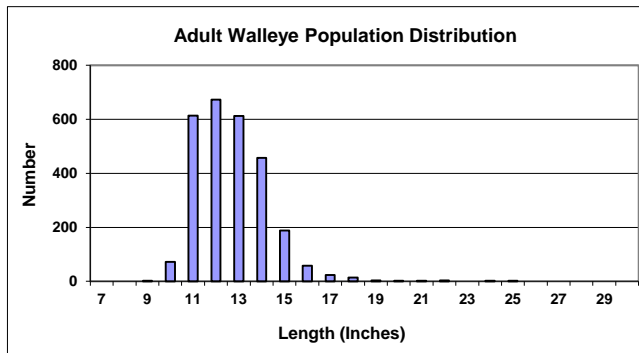
WISCONSIN DNR
FISHERIES INFORMATION SHEET

LAKE: LAURA

COUNTY: VILAS

YEAR: 2016

The Department of Natural Resources surveyed Laura Lake, Vilas County, from April 20th through June 7th, in order to assess the status of the walleye and smallmouth bass populations. Laura Lake is a seepage lake with predominantly sand substrates along with some rock and muck. It has a surface area of 628 acres, 4.8 miles of shoreline, and a maximum depth of 43 feet. Laura Lake's walleye and smallmouth bass populations are sustained entirely through natural reproduction.



* Note: Adult walleye are defined as all sexable walleye (regardless of length) and those of unknown sex ≥ 15 inches in length.

Walleye



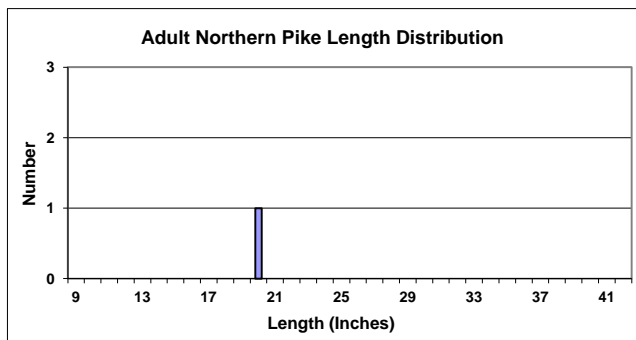
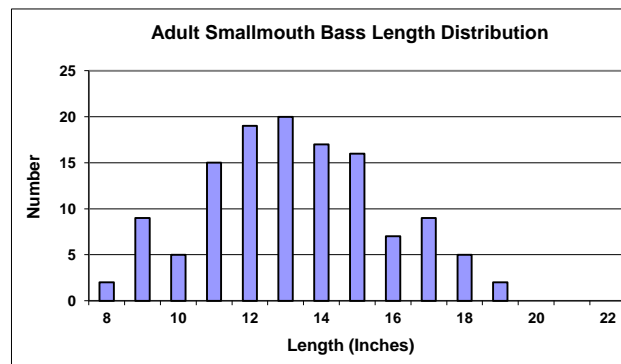
During four days of fyke netting, 1,354 adult walleye were captured and marked with a fin clip. A crew then sampled with an electrofishing boat and captured 640 adult walleye. During electrofishing 49% (313 of 640) of captured walleye bore the fin clip given during fyke netting. The largest walleye captured was a 25.2-inch female.

Based on those results, Laura Lake was estimated to contain 2,728 adult walleye (4.3/acre). An estimated 11% of adult walleye were 15 inches long or larger.

Smallmouth Bass



Survey crews were able to capture and mark a sufficient number of smallmouth bass from Laura Lake to estimate the population size. During sampling conducted through June 7th, 126 smallmouth bass eight inches or larger were captured. Of those smallmouth captured, 44% were 14 inches long or larger, with the largest measuring 19.9 inches. The smallmouth bass population in Laura Lake (eight inches or larger) was estimated to be 413 fish (0.7/acre). No largemouth bass were captured during our surveys.



Northern Pike



Only one adult northern pike (20.8 inches) was captured during our surveys on Laura Lake.

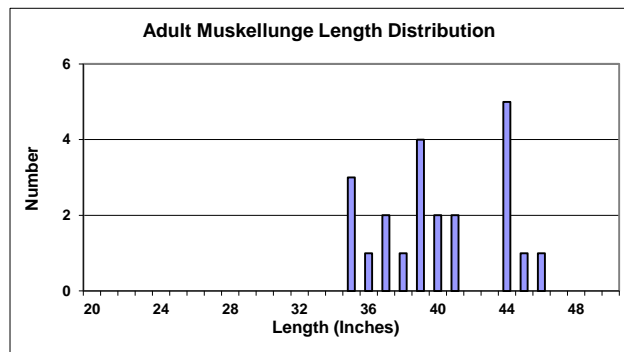
* Note: Adult northern pike are defined as all sexable northern pike and those of unknown sex ≥ 12 inches in length.

Muskellunge



During our fyke netting and electrofishing sampling of Laura Lake, 22 adult muskellunge were captured. Of the adults captured, 50% (11 of 22) were 40 inches long or larger, with the largest being a 46.8-inch female. Additionally, nine juvenile muskellunge (10.3" - 25.7") were also captured.

* Note: Adult muskellunge are defined as all sexable muskellunge and those of unknown sex ≥ 30 inches in length.



Other Species

In addition to the game fish mentioned above, eight species of fish were captured during fyke netting and electrofishing sampling of Laura Lake. Rock bass and white sucker were common in our surveys. Other species sampled in lower numbers included yellow perch, bluegill, pumpkinseed, bluntnose minnow, mimic shiner, and Iowa darter.

A creel survey will be conducted on Laura Lake throughout the 2016-17 fishing season. Creel clerk John Logan will count and interview anglers and examine their catch. The information gathered will be used to estimate fishing effort in addition to angler catch and harvest.

Table 1. General Fishing Regulations for Laura Lake, Vilas County, 2016

FISH SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH
Walleye	May 7 - March 5	3	No minimum length, 1 fish over 14"
Largemouth Bass	May 7 - March 5	5 in total with SMB	14 inches
Smallmouth Bass	May 7 - June 17 (C&R) June 18 - March 5 (Harvest)	5 in total with LMB; harvest season only	14 inches
Muskellunge	May 28 - Nov. 30	1	40 inches
Northern Pike	May 7 - March 5	5	None

A brief summary of selected fishing regulations for Laura Lake is included above (Table 1). While the regulatory information provided was current at the time the surveys were conducted, it is not comprehensive and should not be used as a substitute for the current fishing regulation pamphlet. You may obtain a copy of current fishing regulations when you purchase your fishing license, or download a copy from our web site at:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/regulations/>

This report is interim only; Watch for finalized summaries at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/north/trtysprngsrvys.html>. Creel survey results should be available by June 2017 at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/north/trtycrslrvys.html>. For questions, contact:

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For answers to questions about fisheries management activities and plans for Laura Lake, Vilas County, contact:

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